

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /103 W

----- 043483

R 131445Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9898

INFO USMISSION USUN NT

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMMBASSY COPENHAGEN 2789

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMMBASSY LONDON 1715

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CONFIDENTIAL OSLO 2420

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, EGEN, NO

SUBJ: "LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" MEETING ON U.N. SPECIAL SESSION

SUMMARY: UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ARNESEN AND SENIOR
FOREIGN MINISTRY AID OFFICIAL, KNUT HEDEMANN, BRIEFED
E/C COUNSELOR JUNE 5 ON (A) RECENT MEETING OF SEVEN
"LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" (NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, FINLAND,
THE U.K., THE NETHERLANDS AND CANADA) ON U.N. ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS, AND (B) NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD
U.N. SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. THESE COUNTRIES HOPE TO
ENCOURAGE GROUP OF 77 MODERATES WHICH ARNESEN BELIEVES ARE
IN ASCENDENCY BY TAKING AN OPEN FORTHCOMING POSITION ON
ISSUES AT THE SPECIAL SESSION. AT MEETING SEVEN
SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE REFOR OF THE U.N. ALONG LINES
OF THE GROUP OF 25 RECOMMENDATIONS, ENDORSED AN IN-
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TEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES SIMILIAR TO 7.K.

PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S KINGSTON PROPOSAL, AND DISCUSSED THE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, INCLUDING REA-AFFIRMATION OF SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE TARGETS PLUS A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION ON ABOLISHMENT OF ABSOLUTE POVERTY. ARNESEN ALSO TABLED PRELIMINARY WORKING DRAFT OF A DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY WHICH NORWAY MAY PRESENT AT SPECIAL SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. ARNESEN EXPLAINED THAT RECENT MEETING OF LIKE-MINDED NATIONS IN OSLO GREW OUT OF DUTCH INITIATIVES STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY NORWAY. IDEA WAS THAT DEVELOPED NATIONS SHARING COMMON VIEWPOINTS AND POLICIES TOWARD LDCS AND U.N. QUESTIONS SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR VIEWS INFORMALLY. NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, AND THE U.K. HELD AN INITIAL MEETING IN THE HAGUE IN APRIL. CANADA AND FINLAND JOINED THE GROUP FOR THE MEETING IN OSLO. ACCORDING TO ARNESEN THE SEVEN HOPE TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE WHERE CONFRONTATION WILL YIELD TO A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND ENCOURAGEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO G-77 MODERATES WHICH ARNESEN BELIEVES ARE GAINING STRENGTH. ARNESEN IDENTIFIED MODERATES AS INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND SAID EVEN ALGERIA MAY TONE DOWN AFTER PARIS PRREPCOM.

2. THE FIVE POINTS CONTAINED IN CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER NO. 1. WERE USED IN THE OSLO MEETING AS A STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION. THREE MAJOR TOPICS WERE COVERED:

(A) CHANGES IN THE U.N. STRUCTURE--ARNESEN SAID SEVEN AGREED THAT CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE "U.N. CENTER". THEY SUPPORTED IN PRINCIPLE REPORT OF THE GROUP OF 25 EXPERTS ON REFORM OF THE U.S. . THEY AGREED THAT REPORT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO A POLITICAL COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GA AND THOUGH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT MIGHT HAVE TO BE SEPARATE AND NOT CONSIDERED AS A PACKAGE. AMONG SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SEVEN WERE CREATION OF A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AS AN ALTER-EGO TO WALDHEIM, THE STRENGTHENING OF ECOSOC, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CONSOLIDATION OF PRE-INVESTMENT FUNDING.

(B) COMMODITIES--DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AND PRIME MINISTER WILSON'S KANSAS CITY AND KINGSTON SPEECHES. THE SEVEN AGREED ON NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO COMMODITIES AND FOR A POLITICAL "UMBRELLA" OR "CHAPEAU" UNDER WHICH COMMODITIES COULD BE HANDLED, BELIEVING THAT COMMODITY TRADE IS A POLITICAL

QUESTION AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH. INDEXATION MIGHT BE USED FOR SOME BUT NOT ALL COMMODITIES. BASIC AIM IS TO STABILIZE PRICES AND IMPROVE THE TERMS OF TRADE OF LDC COMMODITY EXPORTERS. ARNESEN HIMSLLF MAINTAINED WE CANNOT LEAVE COMMODITIES VULNERABLE TO THE FLUCTUATIONS OF THE MAKET. LOME CONVENTION WAS CITED AS ONE APPROACH, BUT ARNESEN SAID SPECIAL SESSION WAS PROBABLY NOT PROPER FORUM FOR DETAILED DISCUSSIONS.

(C) TRANSFER OF RESOURCES-THE SEVEN SUPPORTED MOST OF THE IN PRIMCIPLES CONTAINED BUT NOT ALL SPECIFICS OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES AND OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. RE-AFFIRMATION OF TARGETS FOR THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT WERE ALSO STRESSED, AND ARNESEN SAID THAT CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION ON ABILITION OF ABSOLUTE PROVERTY.

3. THE SEVEN PLAN ANOTHE MEETING IN EARLY AUGUST PERHAPS IN LONDON. ARNESEN CONSIDERS THE SEVEN CAN BE EFFECTIVE IF THEY WORK TOGETHER INFORMALLY--NO FORMAL CONSULTATIONS OR CAUCUSING IS ENVISAGED--ON U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS. HE SAID SEVEN HAD AGREED THAT NORWAY SHOULD KEEP U.S. INFORMED OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVEN AND THAT THE NETHERLANDS WOULD DO THE SAME FOR EEC MEMBERS.

4. AT THE MEETING OF THE SEVEN ARNESEN DISTRIBUTED A PRELIMINARY NORWEGIAN WORKING DRAFT OF A DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SOLIDARITY. DECLARATION IS A POLITICAL/PHILOSOPHICAL DOCUMENT DEALING WITH LDC ISSUES. ARNESEN STRESSED ITS PRELIMINARY CHARACTER AND SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN IF IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL

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5. COMMENT: NORWAY AND THE OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES APPEAR TO CONSIDER THEY CAN PLAY A BRIDGE-BUILDING ROLE DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION BETWEEN THE LDGS AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE MAJOR POWERS. THE GROUP IS STILL IN THE FORMATIVE STAGE AN MAY BE EXPANDED. A CANADIAN EMBASSY RE-PRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT THE RECENT MEETING WAS AT TIMES CHAOTIC AND DISORGANIZED. IT IS OBVIOUS HOWEVER THAT ARNESEN AND THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT PLACE CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON NORWAY'S POSSIBLE ROLE AND ON THAT OF THE OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AT THE UN SESSION. NORWAY HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO FURTHER FORMULATE POSTIONS ON U.N. ECONOMIC AND

SOCIAL ISSUES. AND ARNESEN HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE WOULD WELCOME
DIALOGUE WITH EMBASSY ON THESE ISSUES.

.6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER
WHETHER IT WISHES EMBASSY TO PURSUE DIALOGUE SUGGESTED BY ARNESEN.
IF SO, EMBASSY WILL NEED TO BE KEPT CURRENT REGARDING U.S. THINK-
INF AND POSITIONS ON ISSUES INVOLVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC REPORTS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO02420
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750208-0302
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750652/aaaabvmt.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES" MEETING ON U.N. SPECIAL SESSION SUMMARY: UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ARNESEN AND SENIOR
TAGS: EGEN, NO, UN, EEC, (ARNESEN, ARNE), (HEDEMANN, KNUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006